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In re Application of:

TAKAHIRO MATSUURA

Application No.: 09/305,313

Filed: May 5, 1999

For: IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS
AND METHOD

Examiner: C. M. L arose

Group Art Unit: 2623

April 19, 2004

**Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

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APR 27 2004

Technology Center 2600

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to continued examination on the merits, a Request for Continued

Examination (RCE) being enclosed herewith, Applicant respectfully requests that the above-identified application be amended as follows. The claim amendments are reflected in the listing that begins at page 2. The Remarks begin at page 7.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

April 19, 2004

(Date of Deposit)

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Leonard P. Diana (Reg. No. 29,296)

(Name of Attorney for Applicants)

(Name of Attorney)

Paul P. Dine

Signature

April 19, 2004
Date of Signature